

[8 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

or through productivity gains from manpower rationalization and other efficiency improvement measures.”

(c) and (d) Field offices of the Coal Controller's Organisation set up for sampling and analysing of coal by deploying Coal India Limited's staff have been closed in March, 2001. However, the main office of Coal Controller at Kolkatta and its branch office at Dhanbad have not been affected.

(e) Towards rationalization of surplus manpower in ECL, CCL & BCCL, grants-in-aid for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) are being provided by Government of India. Up to January 2001, Rs. 505.00 crore have been released under VRS and 24,877 persons have availed of VRS in ECL, CCL & BCCL. For the year 2001-2002, a target of 11,500 persons has been set for retirement under VRS in these three companies. A provision of Rs. 156.99 crores has been made; this provision will be augmented later in the year.

Reduction of Offices and Staff of Coal Companies

†1840. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to reduce the number of offices and staff of Coal Companies in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed by Government to protect the interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has not fixed any criteria for reducing the number of offices of Coal Companies. However, a certain rationalization is being done by CIL and its subsidiaries keeping in view operational requirements and commercial viability. As far as reduction of staff is concerned, the Government has introduced

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in 1997-98 to reduce the surplus Manpower in ECL, BCCL and CCL was also covered in the year 2000-2001. The Government is offering attractive benefits under VRS to protect the interest of CIL employees. The details of the persons covered under VRS and amount sanctioned & utilised are given as under.

Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
VRS Target	4800	7600	6600	8000	11500
Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)	80	160	165	180	250
Amount Utilised (Rs. in Crores)	75.33	151.03	158.51	140.02	(Provisioned)
Persons	4312	8063	7703	6206	

Government Security to Film Artists

1841. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of top film artists who have been provided Government security, as on date;

(b) the category under which they have been provided and whether they are paying service charges for this security; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) 14 top film artists have been provided Government security in the country.

(b) and (c) Security is provided on the basis of threat assessment and security categorisation keeps on changing according to the nature of threat perception. At present only four film artists bear the expenditure for their security.